

Washington, DC -- Congressman Vern Buchanan (FL-13) announced today his nominations to the four U.S. Service Academies. Each year, members of the House and Senate nominate senior high school students for admission to the U.S. Air Force, Merchant Marine, Military and Naval academies. Applicants who meet strict qualifications are interviewed and recommended by a non-partisan Service Academy Board appointed by the Congressman.

“Here in Florida’s 13th Congressional District, we are fortunate to have so many driven and courageous students willing to serve in our armed forces,” said Buchanan. “Each of the nominees is deserving of the privilege of attending one of our nation’s service academies. But only a handful of students from across the country will be admitted. I wish each of my nominees the best of luck throughout the remainder of the selection process.”

The nominations will be forwarded to the service academies where they will be evaluated based on their academic and extra-curricular record, leadership skills, physical stamina, and other requirements. The following nominees were chosen by Buchanan’s U.S. Military Service Academy Board:

- Cameron Ayala of St. Stephens Episcopal High School was nominated to the U.S. Military Academy and U.S. Air Force Academy
- Regis Bigness of North Port High School was nominated to the U.S. Military Academy
- Brian Chippendale, Jr. of Pine View High School was nominated to the U.S. Air Force Academy
- John William Conlon of Sarasota Military Academy was nominated to the U.S. Naval Academy
- Edison Campbell Dohms of Southeast High School was nominated to the U.S. Air Force Academy
- Joseph Robert James Frye of Lakewood Ranch High School was nominated to the U.S. Military Academy and U.S. Naval Academy
- Jessica Riley Gore of Braden River High School was nominated to the U.S. Naval Academy
- Hayley Samara Hanes of Sarasota High School was nominated to the U.S. Military Academy and U.S. Air Force Academy
- Alyssa Rosemary Heere of Sarasota High School was nominated to the U.S. Naval Academy
- Thomas James Kopec of Braden River High School was nominated to the U.S. Military Academy, U.S. Naval Academy, U.S. Air Force and U.S. Merchant Marine Academy
- Lauren Marie MacKinnon of Cardinal Mooney High School was nominated to the U.S. Naval Academy
- Michael Steven Martino of Sarasota Military Academy was nominated to the U.S. Military Academy
- Natasha Kirsten Niemann of Manatee High School was nominated to the U.S. Military Academy, U.S. Naval Academy, U.S. Air Force and U.S. Merchant Marine Academy

- Isaac Bruce Riley of Manatee High School was nominated to the U.S. Military Academy, U.S. Air Force Academy and U.S. Merchant Marine Academy
- Jordan Christopher Romecki of Cardinal Mooney and Florida State College was nominated to the U.S. Military Academy and U.S. Naval Academy
- Christine Dawn Semones of Palmetto High School was nominated to the U.S. Military Academy, U.S. Naval Academy, U.S. Air Force and U.S. Merchant Marine Academy
- John James Villotti of Sarasota Military Academy was nominated to the U.S. Naval Academy and U.S. Air Force Academy
- Jason Whitehead of Bayshore High School was nominated to reenter the U.S. Air Force Academy after a two year sabbatical.